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|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| APPLICATION NO.              | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/521,116                   | 09/23/2005  | Uwe Prochnow         | PROCHNOW2           | 6778             |
| 1444                         | 7590        | 07/09/2009           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C. |             |                      | ROBERTS, JESSICA M  |                  |
| 624 NINTH STREET, NW         |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| SUITE 300                    |             |                      | 2621                |                  |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20001-5303    |             |                      | MAIL DATE           | DELIVERY MODE    |
|                              |             |                      | 07/09/2009          | PAPER            |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b>             | <b>Applicant(s)</b>     |
|                              | 10/521,116                         | PROCHNOW, UWE           |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>JESSICA ROBERTS | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2621 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### **Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2005.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### **Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s)       is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s)       is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s)       is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s)       are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### **Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on       is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### **Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.      .  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### **Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/23/2009

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date      .  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Supreme Court precedent<sup>1</sup> and recent Federal Circuit decisions<sup>2</sup> indicate that a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. While the instant claim(s) recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claim(s) neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. For example the method for compressing and decompressing video image data including the steps of "selected pixel quantities are analyzed", "contours of image structures are determined", "smoothing and closure of contours is performed", "contours that are found in this way are described in segments in each case through a parameterized mathematical function", "for individual objects and background a color dominance and color progression is determined", "position and extent of the individual object are determined", "a structure function is determined", "different changes in

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<sup>1</sup> *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876).

<sup>2</sup> *In re Bilski*, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

brightness, size, position, and orientation of the objects are determined", "objects in the background that are defined", "the basic frame data and sequence frame", "in that from the basic frame data", "for the background of the image and the objects,", "which are reconstituted", "the sequence frame data are applied" is of sufficient breadth that it would be reasonably interpreted as a series of step completely performed mentally, verbally, or without machine.

Applicant has provided no explicit and deliberate definitions to tie the method which includes the steps "selected pixel quantities are analyzed", "contours of image structures are determined", "smoothing and closure of contours is performed", "contours that are found in this way are described in segments in each case through a parameterized mathematical function", "for individual objects and background a color dominance and color progression is determined", "position and extent of the individual object are determined", "a structure function is determined", "different changes in brightness, size, position, and orientation of the objects are determined", "objects in the background that are defined", "the basic frame data and sequence frame", "in that from the basic frame data", "for the background of the image and the objects,", "which are reconstituted", "the sequence frame data are applied to limit the steps to a particular apparatus or device.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JESSICA ROBERTS whose telephone number is

(571)270-1821. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 EST Monday-Friday, Alt Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (571) 272-7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marsha D. Banks-Harold/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/Jessica Roberts/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2621